

# SCIENTIFIC HOUSEKEEPING AND THE SERVANT QUESTION.

It is often affirmed that women should not be admitted into civic or public service until they had solved the "problem of household science," as if this was a question entirely apart from all others and only required to be considered earnestly to be "solved." It is even the fashion to deprecate any discussion among women of household affairs—as if the individual was responsible for the present chaotic condition of household science and service.

This is to be regretted, as it has encouraged women in the belief that the professions and trades which underlie the home are not subject to the same laws of development as are others. Thus, instead of learning from a study of the economic conditions around them, women have avoided the subject as a whole. Many of the clubs have a section entitled "The Home," and this section has generally been the least active one of the club, even where practical experiments were organized under it. The form usually adopted was philanthropic, and any economic movement which is classified in the department of charity is certain to come to a speedy end.

The National Household Economic Association merits a long article. One of the branches of this association, the Syracuse Household Economic Association, has accomplished some original work. The aim of the club is "to diffuse information on matters pertaining to domestic service." The active members pay fifty cents annual dues and associate members two dollars. Active members of the club must join one or more of the standing committees, of which there are five—Household Sanitation, Food, Household Service, Municipal Sanitation and Miscellaneous.

In May, 1896, the club had a paid membership of 110. The president is Mrs. S. B. Larned, and she has united enthusiasm with great executive ability, and has done much to advance the interests of the club. The programme presented for the season of 1896 was both practical and suggestive. It opened with an address on "The Present Conditions of Our City," under the auspices of the Committee on Municipal Sanitation. This address touched on everything which had to do with the sanitation of a city. Another paper was: "House Building, from a Woman's Point of View." The club has given attention to "Domestic Service," and an admirable paper was presented on "Household Service in Co-operative Housekeeping," and another on "Bureaus of Information and Household Register." The club has published a household register for two years. It was an exchange between employer and employe. The register contains a list of persons known to the club members and others who have applied for positions. "It is an effort to make housekeepers recognize the fact that mutual aims and purposes are best accomplished by united effort and that encouragement comes from sympathetic co-operation."

The registry opened with laundry work, classified as family washing, lace curtains, shirts, woollens, etc.; sewing, also classified, from dressmaking to sewing carpets; general housework, also classified, from housecleaning to the most dainty catering; private instruction in all branches of education and in all the arts; out-of-door work, as gardening, lawn mowing, etc.; general repairs within the house. The register concludes with "Miscellaneous," under which heading come all sorts of trades, from makers of preserves to makers of paper lamp shades and paper dolls. Such a register is invaluable to all cities and towns. It is surprising that it has not been thought of before. It concludes by giving some simple rules for the guidance of employer and employe as to contracts, rates of wages, etc.

The Household Economic Association has enlarged its scope and on the



Mary E. Green, M. D., President of the National Household Economics Association.

1st of June, 1896, opened a Bureau of Information at the Durston, on James and Warren streets. Instead of continuing the publication of the Household Register, a list of recommended persons in the following departments is kept: Fine and plain sewing, laundry work, household service of all kinds, cooking, dressmaking, nursing, instruction in all branches of art and literature, etc. The association has secured the co-operation of the housekeepers and home helpers—a new word which is used in place of "servant"—and thus the bureau is a success.

In October last the Household Economic Association opened a School of Domestic Science. The Syracuse Gas Company furnished the association with a fully equipped kitchen and lecture room, and by co-operating with the Woman's Union and the Sohay Guild in securing the services of a graduate of the Domestic Science Department of Pratt Institute, the association was able to offer the best instruction.

The association holds two meetings a month. At these meetings papers are read on domestic science and each paper is discussed. There are lectures by professional men and women and scientists. A person not a member of the association can attend any lecture by paying 25 cents admission. One paper in the present course is entitled, "Art and Science versus Drudgery and Luck"—this title might fittingly be used as the motto of the Syracuse Household Economic Association.

ELLEN M. HENROTIN,

President General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## A WOMAN MISSIONARY TO THE WILDS OF AFRICA.



Mrs. Frank T. Lea.

It is my purpose, God permitting, to be a foreign missionary." That is the motto of the student volunteer movement of Bethel College, where I studied, and that is my motto, and that is the reason, God permitting, why I am preparing to leave here for missionary work in the wilds of Africa. The expedition will sail early in May.

To better fit myself for the work I have taken a course as nurse in a New York Hospital. Last June I married Mr. Frank T. Lea, superintendent of Sunshine Mission, which had for its aim a Christian life among the children of Hell's Kitchen. My special work was to show the children what a little Christian home could be, and thus try by example to help them to lead a higher life. Mr. Lea is also a Volunteer, and has recently been appointed to take charge of the industrial work of the first settlement of

ample what the word home, so dear to us, means. Those women must be taught that polygamy is not right. So in all ways the woman's life with us will be a busy one.

Mrs. Frank T. Lea.



African Woman Grinding Corn—Member of the Tribe Among Whom Mrs. Lea Will Work.

the Philafrican Liberator's League. Though I had not chosen Africa as a field of labor, I am ready to go wherever the Gospel is unknown.

This league was formed in New York last June by Mr. Heli Chatelain, the African missionary, for the purpose of establishing settlements in the interior of Africa for liberated slaves and free colonists. The plan is to start with a party of at least seven. It will consist of Mr. Chatelain, a physician, a farmer, a mechanic, Mr. Lea, myself and one or two more ladies as teachers. Landing at Benguela, on the west coast, we will proceed inland about five hundred miles to the healthy plateau about the headquarters of the Quango and the Kassai, and there build up a Christian civilization.

My special work, as far as I can now define it, will be that of housekeeper, thus trying to teach to the natives by example what home life should be. In a recent address Rev. A. McLean, secretary of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, who has just returned from a trip to the missionary stations, said: "One of the greatest, if not the greatest, factors in uplifting the heathens is the Christian home as exemplified by the missionary women."

Can we not in Africa have such an influence? While the men are taking the heavier part, we women must be in our homes teaching by word and ex-